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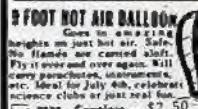
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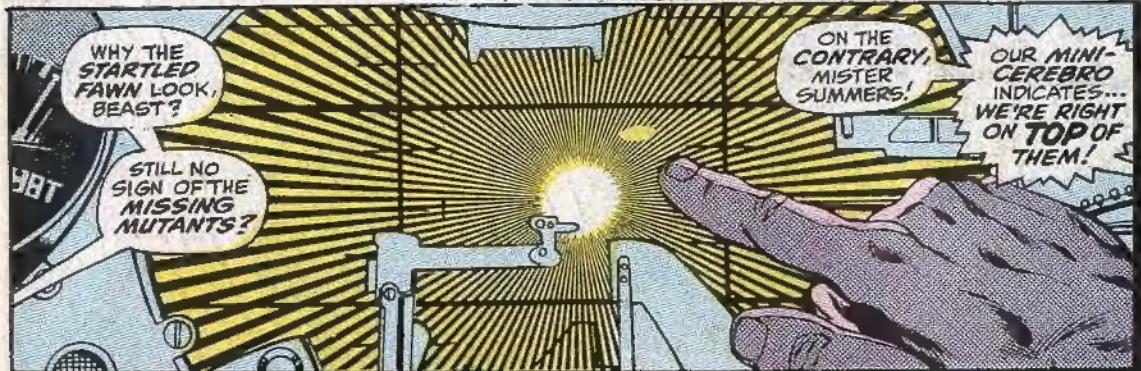
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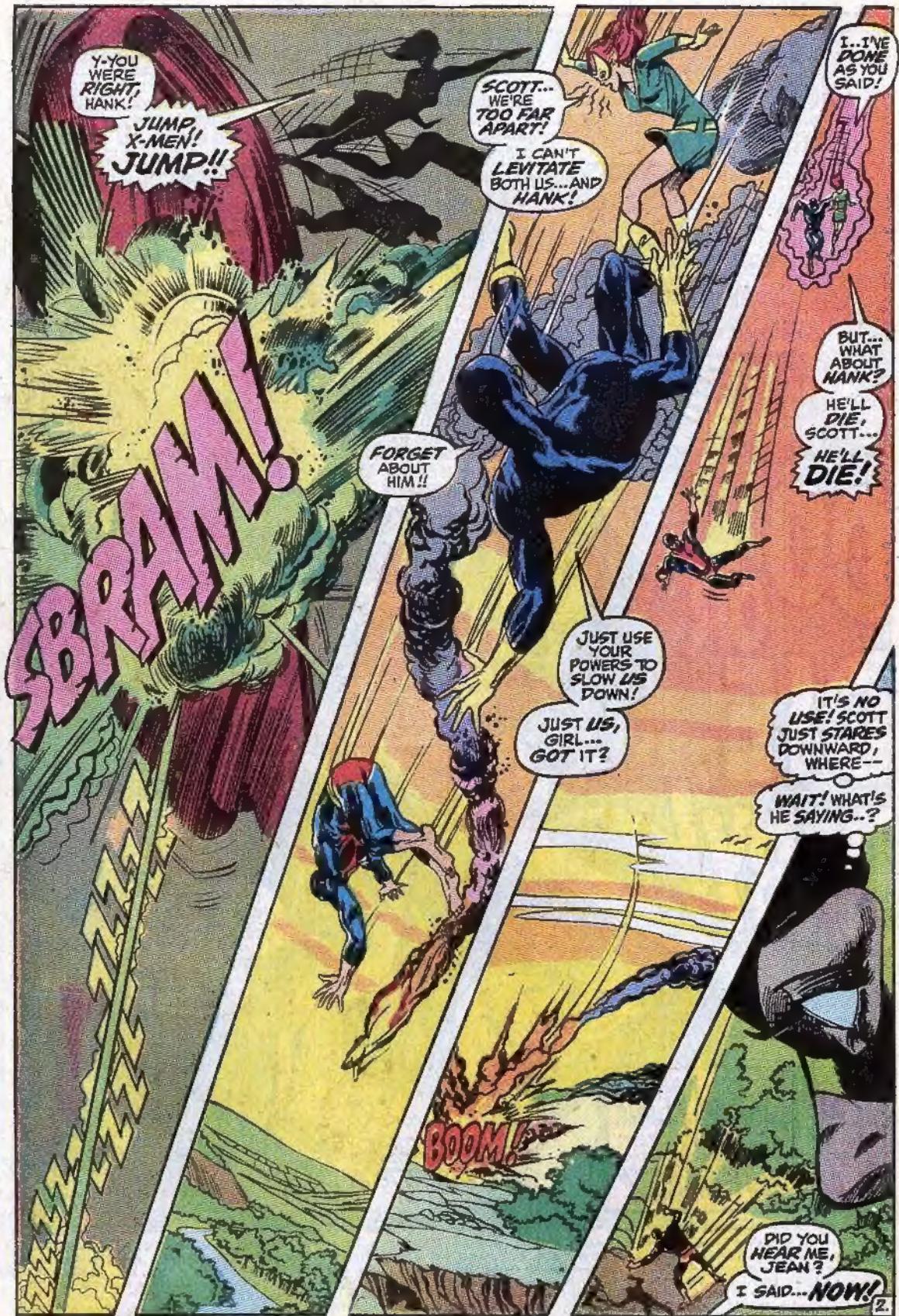
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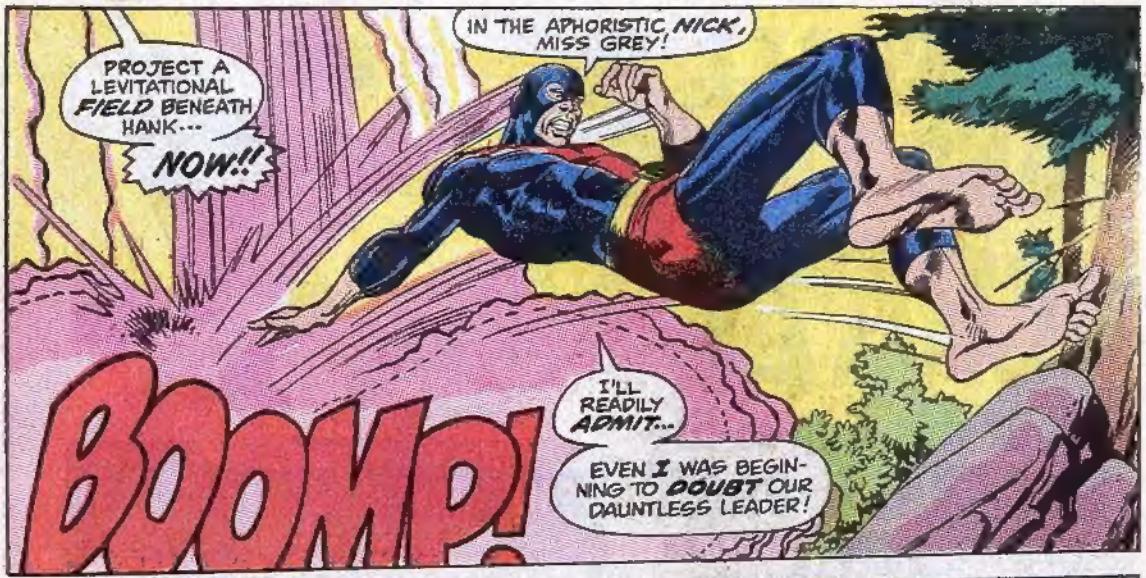
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STAN LEE	ROY THOMAS	NEAL ADAMS
EDITOR	SCRIPTER	ARTIST
TOM PALMER		SAM ROSEN
EMBELLISHER		LETTERER

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Boys are waiting in line to play the game!

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It has given me more pleasure than any other game.

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Has given me more enjoyment than I have ever had from any one thing in my entire life. It's worth its weight in gold. As I love baseball, this game gives me something enjoyable to do during the off seasons as well as during the season.

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BATTY BULLETINS TO BEWILDER, BEWITCH, AND BEAZZLE YOU!

ITEM! Have you been wondering what's happened to Jaunty JIM STERANKO? Well, the news is finally out. Starting this month, you'll see him represented in Marvel's newest and most off-beat suspense mags — TOWER OF SHADOWS and CHAMBER OF DARKNESS! Those of you who are dyed-in-the-wool fans of ghost stories, witchcraft, and tales of the macabre (and who isn't?) are gonna have a real field day with these groovy grotesqueries — and wait'll you see who some of the other artists are!

ITEM! We know you've been hangin' by your thumbs waiting to learn the names of our two new romance mags also! (Think of the bread you'll save buying THESE for your gal friends instead of diamonds and Rolls-Royces!) The titles are MY LOVE and OUR LOVE STORY . . . (Kinda grabs you, huh?) . . . and, if you think Ring-A-Ding ROMITA and Big JOHN BUSCEMA are unbeatable at superhero stuff, you'll blow your cerebellums when you see the way they handle these tintinnabulatin' tear-jerkers! (Know something? With our nutty luck, they'll probably become runaway best-sellers and we'll be stuck doing 'em forever! Oh well — it's better than working!)

ITEM! Here's a belated "Thank-u" to Blushin' BILL RYAN, an old fan of ours who's now a song-writer vocalist with the wildly sensational SNOW. Their newest album cover is probably the artiest of the month. Y'know, we're suddenly reminded that we have so many good friends in the recording biz that it may not pay us to hire any more artists for the batty Bullpen — unless they can sing or play a guitar! The only thing buggin' us is — how come he N.Y. Philharmonic haven't sent us HEIR latest release yet? C'mon, Lennie boy — let's get with it, huh?

ITEM! This one's for Fancy NANCY MURPHY! Our syncoated subscription sweetie, Nanci, who sends out all the subscription copies, back issues, and anything else you send your clammy little coins to us for, wants to ask you NOT to put any money in your fan mail. If you're sending us a check, money order, or negotiable securities, be sure to put the loot in a SEPARATE ENVELOPE and address it to SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., BACK ISSUE DEPT., or whatever it is you're sending for. If you enclose your order in a fan mail envelope, it'll take weeks and weeks longer to receive your goodies, because the letter has to be tossed back and forth till it gets to the right department. Okay? Okay!

ITEM! Have you noticed that our x-tra-gantly x-citing X-MEN sages are back to 20 full pages again? When we saw the powerful, pulsatin' pencil-work of Nefarious NEAL ADAMS — not to mention the incredible inking of Terrific TOMMY PALMER — we figured that it would be a crime to deprive a wildly waiting world of those extra five pages! And didja know that the Nefarious One colors his own pages, also? All of a sudden, our merry menage of mutants is one of the mags that're definitely not to be missed!

ITEM! Rascally ROY's been skipping around with a smile from ear-to-ear lately. Why? We thought you'd never ask! It seems that Big JOHN B.'s talented kid brother will be taking over the illustration chores of THE AVENGERS starting next month! Yep. Our Pal SAL BUSCEMA is not only one of the top inkers around, but when you see his pencil work you'll realize why the Bullpen figures we oughta keep the two Mr. B.'s under lock and key like for the next hundred years!

ITEM! It looks as though sunny California has been agreeing with the King! Yep,

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Every time one of our sagacious super-heroes guest-stars in another mag we get bombarded with the same type of complaints from Marveldom Assembled! "How can Thor be fighting litterbugs with Nick Fury when he's in outer space with Winken, Blinken, and Nod in his own mag?" Or "How can Captain America be trapped by Aunt May in Spidey's mag when he's running a school for teen-age dropouts in his own swingin' stanza?" So, we have two choices. Either we stop crossover guest-starring, or we ask you to permit us a little literary license. If the doings of one of our repertory players in his own mag doesn't seem to jibe with his cameo appearance in some other mag during the same month, let's just say that one story took place a few days before, or after the other, and let it go at that, huh? Anyway, we'll try it for a while and see how it shakes you! (And, if the aforementioned has in any way confused you — welcome to the club!)

Excelsior!
Smiley

since moving out there, Jolly JACK KIRBY has been working faster than ever and is actually getting ahead of his super-human schedule! This means he may have time to handle still another mag within the next year. So here's your chance to sound off again, faithful one! Which strip is most worthy of the Master's touch? Should we finally launch the INHUMANS? DR. DOOM? KA-ZAR? Or, do you have some other oldie or newbie you'd like him to bring to life? Sock it to us, sweetie, and we'll let you know how the mail keeps coming in!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

TOWER OF SHADOWS #1: Marvel's newest, most mysterious mag! Tales of weird and maddening menace, tinged with witchcraft and the dark unknown! And, talk about artwork! If a book of the macabre can be called beautiful, this is it!

FANTASTIC FOUR #90: A superhuman Skrull from outer space has landed here on earth. But, he doesn't want to conquer our planet. No, all he wants is — to enslave the Thing! It's dynamite!

SPIDER-MAN #76: You knew we've been leading up to it for months — and now, it's happening! Spidey battles the loathsome Lizard, in one of the most daringly dramatic dazzling of all!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #117: Introducing Marvel's newest and possibly most dynamic fighting hero — the Falcon! Also, see Cap battle, single-handed, against the deadly Exiles! Better buy it fast!

AVENGERS #67: To fight the invincible foe — that's the impossible mission of our awesome assemblers, aided by Iron-Man and the mighty Thor! For . . . Ultro-6 lives!

X-MEN #59: "Do or Die, Baby!" The title tells it all — as our masked misfits battle to the finish with the Sentinels! With a way-out wind-up that'll rock ya!

DAREDEVIL #55: It's kill or be killed, when DD takes on the sinister Mr. Fear — high above the sprawling city! But, to make things even worse — our scarlet swashbuckler's turned coward! When it rains . . .

THOR #167: The Thunder God receives the most awesome punishment of all — at the hands of the all-powerful Odin! See Don

Drake on Earth once more. See the villainy of Loki! Greatness lurks within!

HULK #119: Once again, the green-skinned rampager must face the murderous might of the mad Maximus and his band of evil Inhumans! If action is your dish, this one's a feast!

IRON MAN #17: The marauder called Midas — the macabre Madame Masque — and an LMD who has vowed to destroy Tony Stark — and take his place! No wonder we call it — "The Beginning of the End!"

SUB-MARINER #17: Namor begins a quest which will take him to the land of his birth — only to encounter a menace from the very stars! And, wait'll you learn the far-out scheme of — the Stalker!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #16: A new life — and a colorful new costume — for Mar-Vell, as our space-born superhero takes on the entire Kree Galaxy! Plus, at long last — the sinister secret of Zol! A turning point!

SHIELD #14: A day in the life of Nick Fury — but what a day! 'Cause, now the hostile hordes of Hydra have joined Shield on the trail of our hard-hitting fugitive! Thrill follows thrill!

DR. STRANGE #182: Nightmare — Eternity — and Juggernaut makes three! Our master of black magic faces three of the most powerful entities in all the universe! A cataclysmic classic!

SGT. FURY #69: Our stogie-smokin' sergeant is a captive — of the Nazi called Colonel Klaue! Then, enter the Howlers — and the home front will never be the same again! A gasser!

CAPT. SAVAGE #16: War — in a winter wonderland! But, find it where you may, it's still a living hell — 'cause the Battlefield Raiders play for keeps! Bring your own combat helmets!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #22: Talk about Marvel masterworks! This issue features two of the earliest classic epics of the X-Men and the ol' Man Without Fear himself — Daredevil! Plus pin-ups, yet!

MARVEL TALES #22: One of the most famous Spidey tales from the pulsatin' past — as the wall-crawler takes on the Green Goblin! Also, Thor and the Torch! Need we say more?

MILLIE THE MODEL #174
CHILI #5: More merry, mixed-up misadventures of America's most mirthful models and their fascinatin' flock of flipped-out friends! A riot of loony laughs!

MY LOVE #1: Everybody loves a lover, and we're no exception! You don't haveta be hung-up on heartthrobs, but if you like to look at gorgeous gals — this is the place to find 'em, Charlie!

AND, STILL ON SALE—
SILVER SURFER #7: Once again the name of Frankenstein spreads fear thruout the land — and only the Silver Surfer can save mankind from the strangest threat of all!

COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #22: Want more of the F.F. — Dr. Strange — and Iron Man? You got it! Plus, a bombshell bonus — the very first appearance of Henry Pym — the Ant-Man!

RAWHIDE KID #71: The most dreaded cry of all is heard on the frontier: "Indian War!" It's Rawhide at his stuggin', six-shootin' best — against the most deadly enemy in the West!

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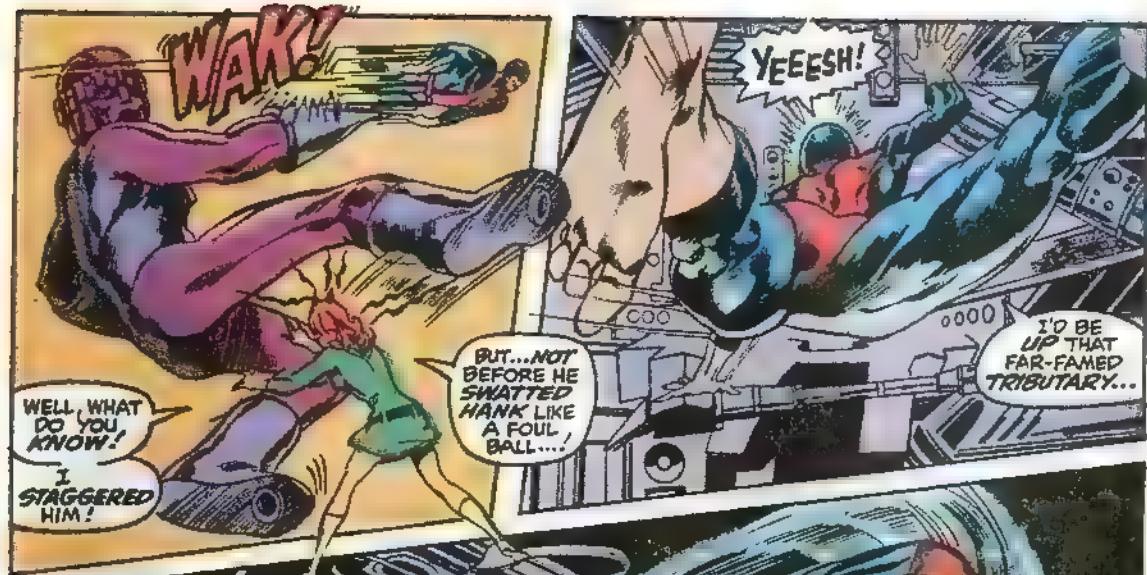
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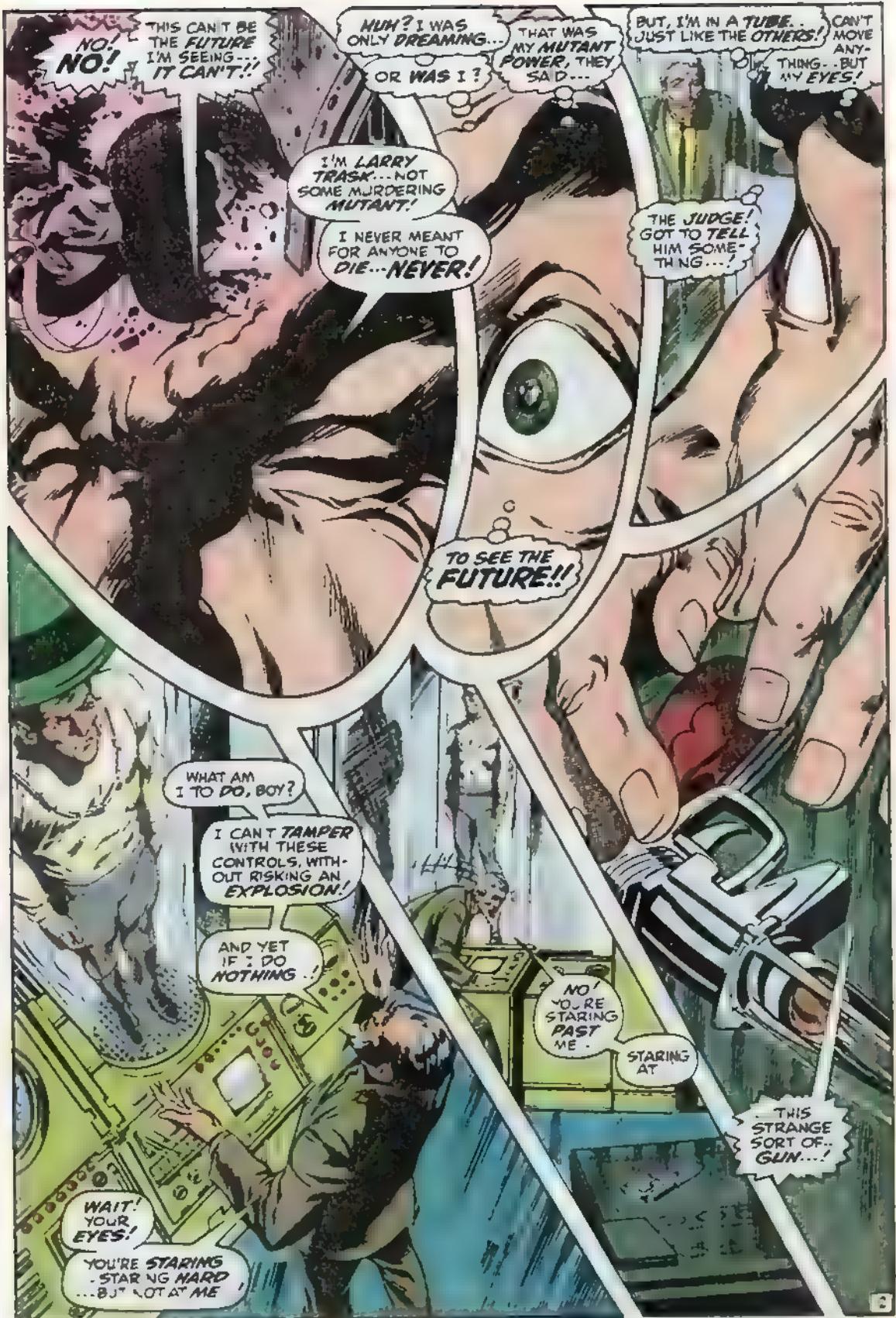


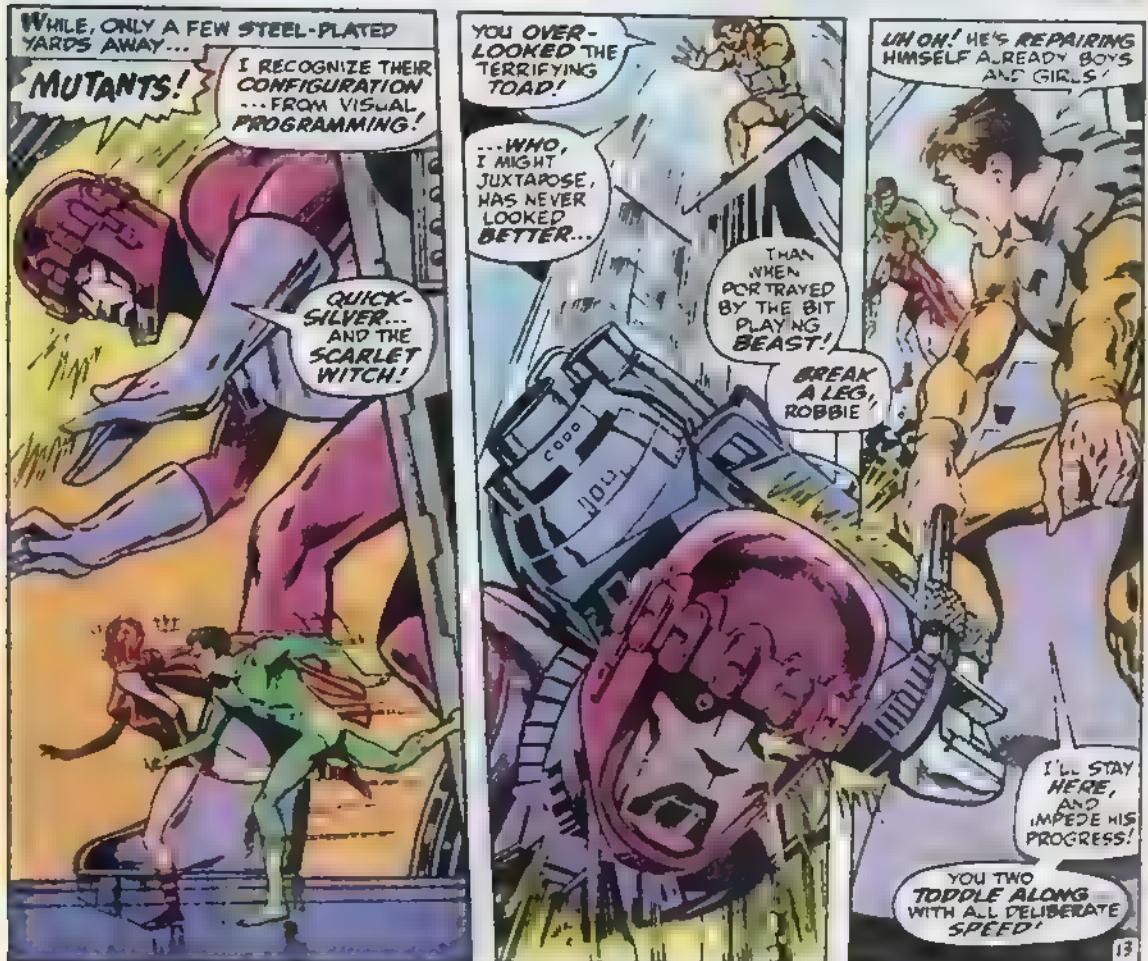


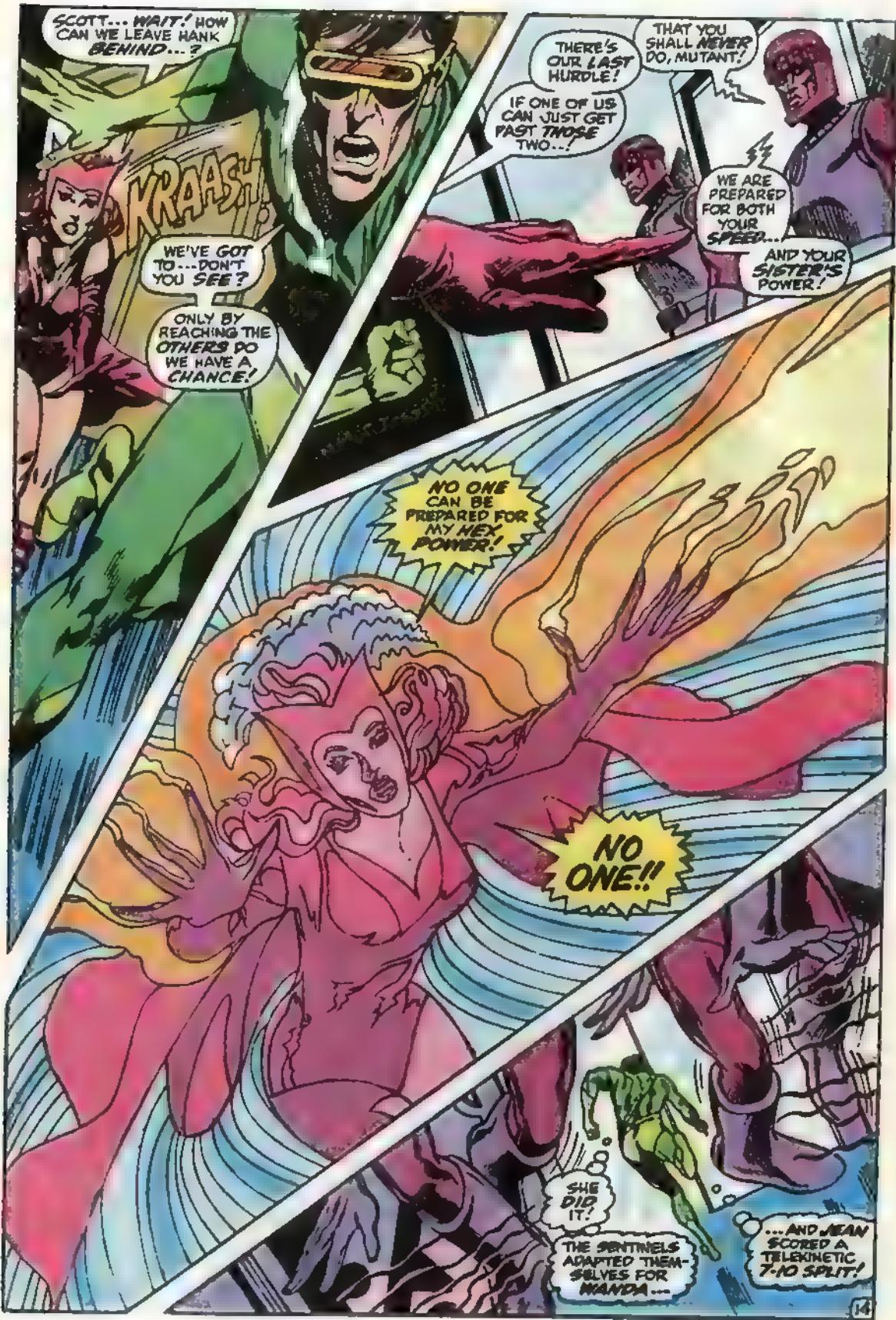
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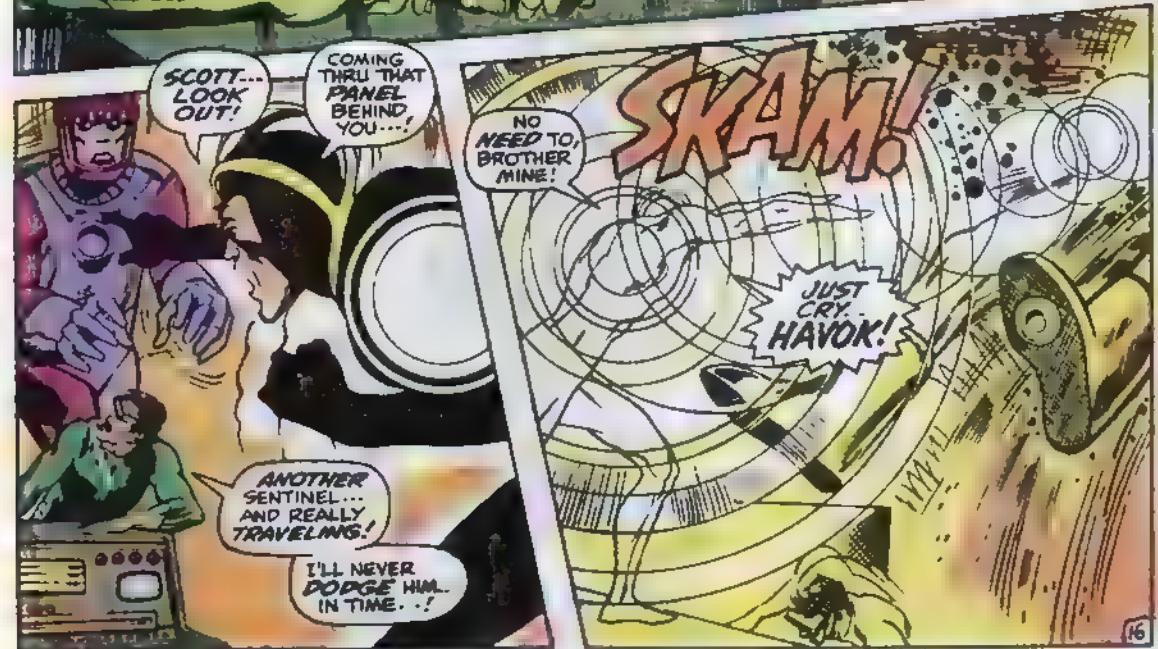
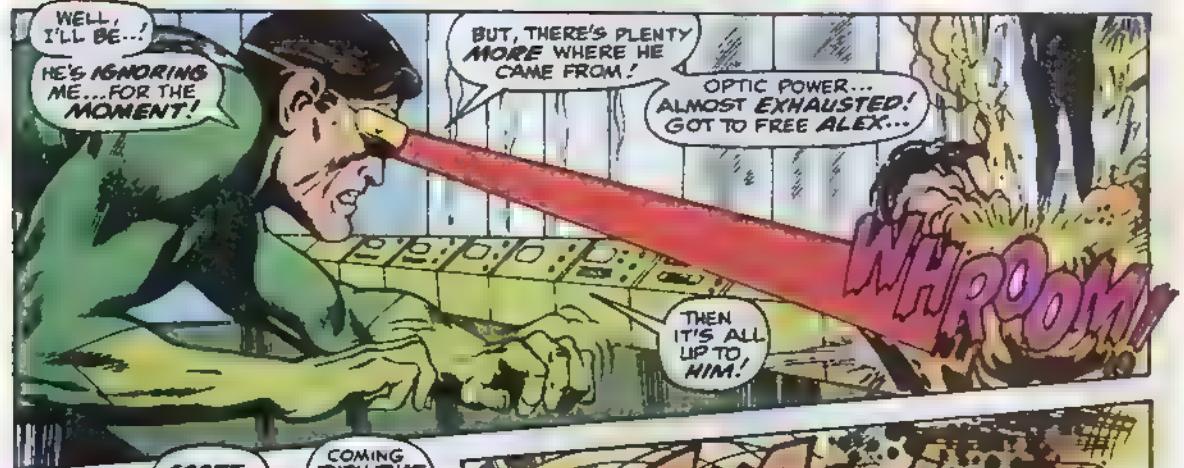
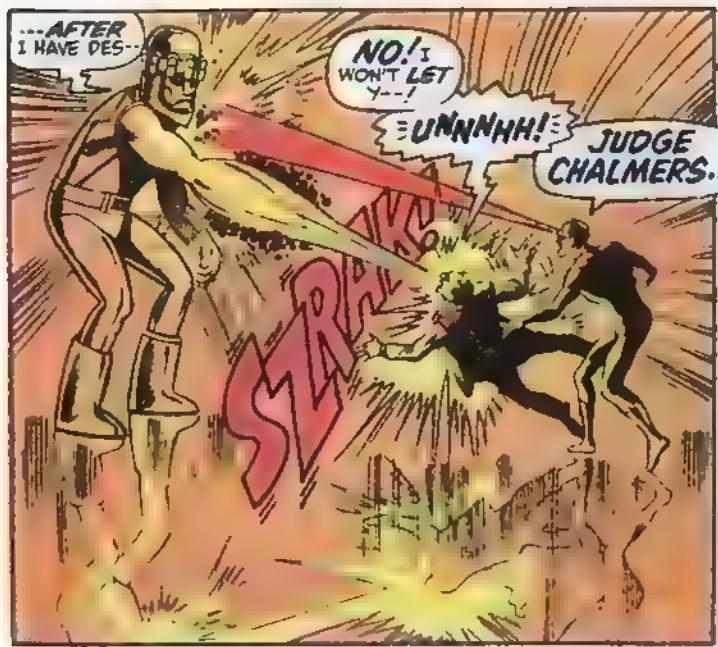








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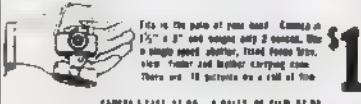
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Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

Being a fan of all the Marvel comics, I should be able to judge the good from the bad. Let me tell you that X-MEN #54-55 were not only excellent, but super-excellent. Vince Colletta did a perfect inking job. Werner Roth put on a perfect pencilling performance. Coming up with a new villain such as the Living Pharaoh was a smart idea. It not only gave Cyclops a chance to star in a story, but it also gave someone related to the X-Men a chance to appear. There couldn't have been a more dramatic ending to issue #55. When you hear Cyclops say, "You — Alex Summers — are a mutant!!", you have to struggle to read another word. Finally, if all X-MEN stories were as good as this one, you would all be MILLIONAIRES now!

Jeffrey Siegel, 3539 Decatur Ave
Bronx, N.Y. 10467

Then we'll all be sailing to work in yachts any day now, Jeff — 'cause if the last few X-Men sagas by Roy, Neal, and Tom haven't hit the high-water mark for the series, then we don't know mutants from muskmelon! (And we do — we think.)

Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

Please! Not that tiresome joke that shows someone who doesn't know the real meaning of "corpus delicti"! I quote from Soderman & O'Connell, MODERN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION (1962 ed.), p. 5: "Corpus delicti means the existence of the essential, fundamental fact that a crime has been committed. In murder cases, corpus delicti means the victim's death together with the fact that it was caused by the wrongful act of another."

I suppose that, like many another phrase, it will become twisted in usage so eventually it will mean the corpse or body (physical) — but not yet, please.

J. Randolph Cox, Reference Librarian, St. Olaf College
Northfield, Minn. 55057

We plead guilty, your honor, to the awesome offense of misusing the term *corpus delicti* — even though, strictly speaking, we knew the true meaning of the expression when we used it. However, we try to have our characters speak and act as much like normal people as possible — and thus we used a popular, colloquial (and admittedly not quite correct) definition of the term.

Tell you what, J. Randolph! We've drawn up a pledge not to abuse or otherwise mutilate any common expressions in the future — and this pledge will go into effect just as soon as we sign our John Henry to it! Deal?

Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

One of the problems plaguing Cyclops has been his inability to remove his special glasses without his force beam shooting out. For what it's worth, here is one solution.

In a past X-MEN, an "Origin of Cyclops" story, it showed how energy was stored "near his eyes". A more precise and more logical explanation for both his "energy" and storage place would be as follows: Like Marvel Girl, Cyke's eye bolts are mental force, i.e., telekinesis. The difference in his power and Jean's is like the difference between a pile driver and a jeweler's hammer. Whereas Marvel Girl's power is a fine, delicate touch, capable of performing

highly dexterous work, Cyke's mental force beams are more for heavy, strenuous work. The red color of his beam is due to the air being pushed out of its path so violently that a slight ionization takes place on the fringes of the beam, causing the neon gas in the atmosphere to glow faintly red. The noise that accompanies the beam is also due to this sudden displacement of air. Jean's mental force would not have this effect since it is weaker, more dispersed, and of finer "texture".

As for Cyke's glasses, Professor X knew that Cyke needed them only as a crutch. The thought that while glasses were worn the beams could not come out was in itself enough to prevent their release. The bit about varying the strength of the beam by making the aperture in his goggles smaller was simply a "device" to focus Cyke's mind on the manner in which the beams would be released. Narrowing the aperture would not in itself result in a less powerful beam, only in a narrower beam. In reality, Cyclops is subconsciously controlling his beam with his mind, much as Jean controls hers — except that she does it consciously. Due to the beam's power, however, the "crutch" was necessary until Cyke's conscious mind developed far enough to control it mentally.

This similarity in abilities could be what draws Scott and Jean so close together. Each "senses" that the other is similar mentally. Thus makes their abilities complement each other, thereby making them an ideal team within a team.

I don't know if you think this idea is valid or worthwhile, although I'm sure that if you decide to use it, you can figure out an appropriate method of having Cyke "discover" the real source of his ability. Keep up the fantastic work on this mag; in my book, it's one of the best on the market.

Frank D. Carey, USAF PCS Japan Dist., Box 5006
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And we hope that those other "best on the market" mags all have that Marvel trademark in the upper left-hand corner.

As for your explanation regarding a telekinetic basis for Cyclops' optic force-beams, we're afraid that we're inclined to stand by our previous viewpoint that his eyes transform the stored rays of the sun into a different, more deadly kind of energy. However, your thesis is well thought out, and is correct (by our admittedly imperfect standards) in one way, at least: as we showed once somewhere-or-other, Scott can hold back the beams to some extent by means of his own will power. Of course, this takes a lot out of him — and can only be done for a few desperate seconds at a time.



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Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

It cheered me, after a thirteen month hiatus, to see Roy Thomas back at work on X-MEN. This issue looked very good. I'm a big fan of Jim Steranko's work, but I think perhaps the complex plotting of the last round with Magneto, what with seven or eight major characters around all the time, was poorly suited to his style and fouled up the rhythm of his lay-outs. The more direct Heck-Roth style seems to work better with so many characters involved.

I'd like to cast a vote for Joseph Cook's proposal that the X-Men reopen the school and introduce some new permanent characters. There'd have to be an adult to "front" for them, but I imagine their contact with the F.B.I. could help them find a new director for the school. The school would give your disparate group a binding, long-term common interest, something for them to be concerned with in those brief moments when no villain is threatening to destroy the world. Besides, it would help you bring in your newest mutants, Lorna Dane and Alex Summers (although I see you're setting up some further mystery about them, especially having the Living Pharaoh's power disappear and at the same time appear in Alex). Most important of all, the school would give the X-Men an emphasis to distinguish them from the other super-groups, and give them a new purpose — the discovery and development of latent mutants, and the education of the general public to accept the mutants in their midst. There's nothing like a good crusade to give a group character.

One question for Roy Thomas: on page 7, the last panel, did you mean "Euclidean" (geometry pyramid)? I can't find anything Aristotelian about the dialog at that point, but I've got to admit there are portions of Aristotle's work I'm unfamiliar with (but there are some that I'm really close to). So, if the allusion was intentional, please let me know what it means — 'cause I'm stumped.

Max Karpelman, 549 Orange St.
New Haven, Conn. 06511

The whole matter is really a lot simpler than you imagined, friend Max. The word "Aristotelian" was tossed in there by the Rascally One to refer to Bobby Drake's logic, when he said — and we quote — "I've got a hunch that crate isn't gonna stop till it sees a pyramid!" And if that sounds a bit to you like sloppy usage, Roy says you should blame the stress of the moment — the exigencies of the situation — in fact, just about anything but him! Okay?

Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

X-MEN #55 was just great. The cover was very good, although I don't see what it had to do with the story. Now for Scott's brother. I don't think you should let him join the X-Men. There are enough of them already. Just let him work with the X-Men on a few cases and maybe after you finish the 5 page "Origins of the X-Men" Scott's brother could have his own spot in X-MEN with those 5 pages — with the X-Men coming in only once in a while.

But now about the story, "Where Angels Dare to Tread". On page 2 the Angel said, "There's a new superhero in town . . . The Avenging Angel!". The asterisk explained that Warren wasn't a claim-jumper because the Avengers didn't exist until early in 1963, yet, on page 1, you say that it is winter 1963. How do you explain that?

Henry Mioduszewski, 9 Ruth St.
Norwich, Conn. 06360

Quite easily, Hank. Although the winter season begins in December of any given year, of course, the bulk of any winter comes during the months of January and February, plus the first cold, cold weeks of March. Thus, while you were imagining that the story was taking place sometime in December 1963, the high-flying Angel was actually winging it thru the city skies almost a full year earlier! Got it, lad?



Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

I must compliment you and your staff on your latest X-MEN publication. I thought it was just fabulous. Making Scott have a kid brother was great. At the first of the adventure, I thought Alex was his best friend or cousin. Then when I found out he was his brother, it was getting real interesting. I think of all the X-Men, I like Cyke the best. The death of Professor X has brought out the true Cyke. He has become more mature.

The mystery in the last couple of books is very good — I like lots of mystery. I think you should have the Banshee reopen the Professor's school. Or even Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch could join the X-Men!

Eddie Johnson, 3214 Hawthorne Road
Tampa, Fla. 33611

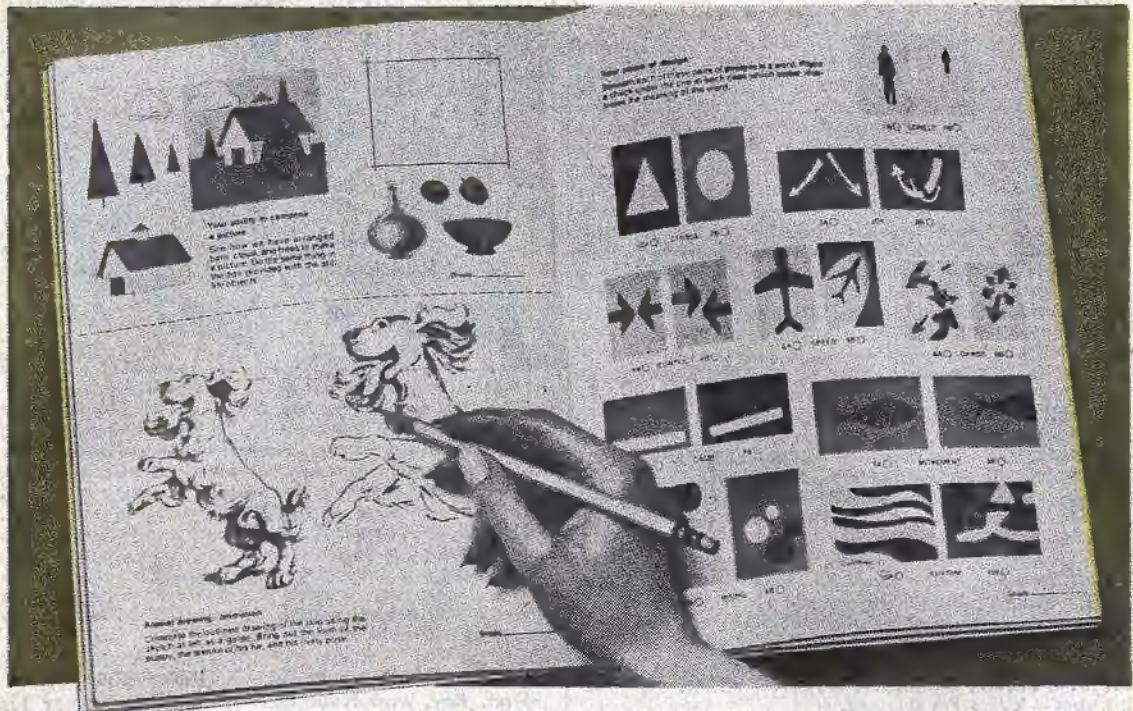
Stan, Roy, and Neal have far-reaching plans for virtually all of the mutants whom you mentioned — although for the immediate present, we'll be keeping the number of actual, bona fide X-Men to five.

Your letter brings up an interesting point that we've long wondered about, however. Just which of the extraordinary X-Men is the most popular? Is it indeed the spectacular Mr. Summers (Scott, we mean) — the luscious, levitating Marvel Girl — the adroit and adage-spouting Beast — your fresh-frozen Iceman — or everybody's favorite Angel? Let us know, huh? We haven't taken a survey to find out in so long, we're afraid we're out of touch.

And, while you're writing, how about letting us know whether you prefer the number and identity of the X-Men to remain constant — or whether you think it's time to say "Out with the old, and in with the new"? You know how insecure we are, so don't let us down, hear?



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